

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 IO-12

AID-20 DPW-01 OMB-01 T-03 CU-04 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 AGR-20 RSR-01 FRB-02 TRSE-00 /184 W

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R 131130 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0476

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

CINCUSARPAC

CGFMFPAC

CGUSARSUPTHAI

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CNO  
COMNAVFORV  
COMNAVINTCOM  
COMSEVENTHFLT  
COMUSMACTHAI  
DIA WASHDC  
COMUSMACV  
7 AF  
7/13 AF  
7 TH PSYOPS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 2273

JOINT EMBASSY/ DAO

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGD: PINS, PINT, PFOR, CB  
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT - MARCH 13, 1973

GENERAL

1. UNDER PRESSURE FROM TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, PRIME MINISTER HANG THUN HAK ANNOUNCED A ROLLBACK OF PETROLEUM PRICE INCREASES, RICE, ELECTRICITY, AND WATER PRICE INCREASES, AND ECONOMIES ON TROOP PAY AND PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANTS; HE ALSO PROMISED VIGOROUS ANTI- CORRUPTION ACTION. AFTER MUCH ANTI- GOVERNMENT ORATORY, STRIKING STUDENTS AGREED TO RETURN TO CLASSES TO GIVE THE GOVERNMENT TIME TO IMPLEMENT ITS MEASURES. TEACHERS CONTINUED TO STRIKE, AND A CLASH OF TEACHERS AND LYCEE STUDENTS WITH THE ARMY AT KAMPOT CLOUDED THE OUTLOOK AT A TIME WHEN THE STRIKE WAS LOSING PUBLIC SYMPATHY IN PHNOM PENH. BRIGADIER GENERAL LON NON, IN A NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW, PREDICTED DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST SIRIK MATAK IF HE RETURNS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND ACCUSED HIM OF PLOTTING TO RESTORE THE MONARCHY. MARSHAL LON NOL INVITED THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO NEGOTIATE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR TROOPS FROM CAMBODIA AND APPEALED TO THE INSURGENTS TO RALLY TO THE GOVERNMENT. A RIVER CONVOY SUFFERED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE EN ROUTE TO PHNOM PENH BUT RETURNED SAFELY. FANK REPAIRED THE KOMPONG THOM AIRFIELD BUT OST SEVERAL MORE POSTS ON ROUTE 2, CREATING A REAL EMERGENCY THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH.

POLITICAL ( INTERNAL)  
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2. BRIGADIER GENERAL LON NON BROUGHT HIS FEUD WITH SIRIK MATAK INTO THE OPEN BY ASKING A NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT TO PRINT HIS CHARGES THAT SIRIK MATAK IS SURROUNDED BY TRAITORS AND ASPIRES TO RESTORE THE MONARCHY. LON NON ALLEGED THAT THERE WOULD BE MASS DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST MATAK IF HE WERE MADE VICE PRESIDENT.

3. MARSHAL LON NOL ON MARCH 6 BROADCAST AN INVITATION TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS AT PHNOM PENH OR ELSEWHERE ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR TROOPS FROM CAMBODIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRIS AND GENEVA AGREEMENTS AND ON AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS. HE ALSO APPEALED TO KHMER " TROOPS AND CIVILIANS COLLABORATING WITH THE NVA/ VC" TO RALLY TO THE GOVERNMENT, POINTING OUT THAT CAMBODIA SHOULD NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS RESERVED BY THE UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES FOR HUMANITARIAN AND ECONOMIC AID TO INDOCHINA. HE PROMISED FAIR TREATMENT AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.

4. PRIME MINISTER HANG THUN HAK ON MARCH 9 PROMISED TO TAKE MEASURES TO STOP IMPORTATION OF UNNECESSARY LUXURY GOODS, TO FORM CONVOYS TO PREVENT EXTORTION OF ILLEGAL FEES FROM INTERCITY MERCHANDISE TRUCKS, TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF OFFICIALS WITH THE RANK AND PREROGATIVES OF MINISTER, TO ORGANIZE PRICE CONTROL COMMITTEES, TO ORGANIZE COOPERATIVES AT PLACES OF WORK FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF STAPLES, AND TO STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL CONTROLS IN ORDER TO REDUCE CORRUPTION. HE ALSO PROMISED THAT A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WOULD ESTABLISH A NEW LOWER PRICE FOR POL PRODUCTS ( SLIGHT REDUCTIONS IN PRICE WERE LATER ANNOUNCED), AND HE POSTPONED RATE INCREASES FOR WATER AND ELECTRICITY FOR TWO MONTHS PENDING STUDY BY A JOINT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT. HE PROMISED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF RICE. A COMMITTEE IS TO STUDY WAGE LEVELS WITH A VIEW TO DECISION IN JUNE.

5. FOLLOWING ANOTHER WEEK OF MEETINGS AT WHICH STUDENT SPEAKERS THREATENED DEMONSTRATIONS AND DENOUNCED CORRUPTION AND PRICE INCREASES, THE KHMER STUDENT ASSOCIATION CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECIDED TO END THEIR STRIKE IN ORDER TO GIVE THE GOVERNMENT A RESPITE TO IMPLEMENT THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND TOLD A STUDENT CONGRESS ON MARCH 14 TO RATIFY THIS DECISION AND DISCUSS THE PRICE QUESTION IN GENERAL.

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6. THE TEACHERS' STRIKE CONTINUED, BUT SOME NEWSPAPERS BEGAN TO CRITICIZE IT FOR CONTRIBUTING TO ANARCHY. THE TEACHERS HAVE THREATENED TO HOLD A DEMONSTRATION IF THE GOVERNMENT FAILS TO MEET THEIR DEMANDS AND ONE PAPER REPORTS THAT IT WILL TAKE

PLACE ON MARCH 15.

7. TEACHERS ACCOMPANYING THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION INVESTIGATING A CLASH AT KAMPOT REPORTED THAT TROOPS LED BY THE GOVERNOR FIRED SHOTS AT ANTI-GOVERNMENT BANNERS ON A SCHOOL AND SEIZED THE SCHOOL. A CHINESE BYSTANDER WAS KILLED AND THE GOVERNOR SLAPPED A TEACHER ACCUSED OF ORGANIZING A DEMONSTRATION. LATER FIVE MORTAR ROUNDS FIRED FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE TOWN IMPACTED ON A NEARBY PAGODA KILLING ONE CHILD. THE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION IN PHNOM PENH IS PREPARING CHARGES OF BRUTALITY AGAINST THE PROVINCE GOVERNOR UNG NHACH, WHILE FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE KEO AN OFFERED TO ACT AS ITS LAWYER AND ATTRIBUTED THE INCIDENT TO "MILITARISM". THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET PRESENTED ITS VERSION.

8. THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION HAS ORDERED THE CLOSING OF A DAILY BULLETIN OF TRANSLATIONS OF EXCERPTS FROM THE KHMER LANGUAGE PRESS WHICH WAS PUBLISHED BY SIRIK MATAK'S INDEPENDENT

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AID-20 DPW-01 OMB-01 T-03 CU-04 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 AGR-20 RSR-01 FRB-02 TRSE-00 /184 W  
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R 131130 Z MAR 73  
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0477  
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AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL UDORN  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
USIA WASHDC  
USMISSION USUN  
CINCPAC  
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CINCPACFLT  
CINCUSARPAC  
CGFMFPAC  
CGUSARSUPTHAI  
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CNO  
COMNAVFORV  
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COMUSMACTHAI  
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COMUSMACV  
7 AF  
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7 TH PSYOPS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 2273

REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION. NO REASON FOR THE CLOSURE WAS GIVEN.  
THE BULLETIN WAS WIDELY READ BY DIPLOMATS AND OTHER FOREIGN  
RESIDENTS.

GRUNK/ FUNK

9. SIHANOUK ISSUED HIS 41 ST MESSAGE TO THE KHMER NATION ON  
MARCH 4. IT IS A TYPICAL COMPENDIUM OF QUOTATIONS FROM  
INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS ABOUT THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN  
GKR CONTROLLED AREAS ALONG WITH A REASSERTION OF FUNK INTERN-  
TIONS TO LIBERATE CAMBODIA.

10. NORODOM PHURISSARS AND CHEY CHEM ( BOTH ONE TIME  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS) ADDRESSED AN APPEAL OVER CLANDESTINE  
RADIO TO MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, PATROTIOTIC PERSONALITIES  
AND MEMBERS OF THE FORMER DEMCRATIC PARTY TO STRUGGLE AGAINST

" THE PHNOM PENH TRAITORS", SUPPORT THE FUNK, AND JOIN THE LIBERATED ZONE " AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". MRS. KHIEU PONNARY (" PHNOM PENH FUNK COMMITTEE VIC CHAIRMAN") MADE A VERY SIMILAR APPEAL TO " WOMEN LIVING IN PHNOM PENH"

11. THE VOICE OF FUNK ALSO BROADCAST A VIOLENT COMMENTARY ON " THE DETERIORATION OF LON NOL" IN WHICH HE IS DESCRIBED AS LOSING HIS SPEECH, FOAMING AT THE MOUTH, UTTERING NOISES, AND REMAINING IN A TRANCE FOR HOURS ALL BECAUSE OF " HIS DISASTROUS DEFEATS AT THE FRONT". " THE DOCTORS OF NIXON AND CHAING KAI SHEK CARE FOR HIM NIGHT AND DAY" BUT " THEY ARE LOSING THEIR MEDICAL LICENSES BECAUSE THEY CANNOT CURE LON NOL", THE COMMENTARY ASSERTED.

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GRUNK/ FUNK ( EXTERNAL)

12. THE PRESS AND RADIO IN FT. LAMY ANNOUNCED THAT CHAD DECIDED TO RECOGNIZE SIHANOUK' S GRUNK ON MARCH 10. IN A RADIO INTERVIEW SIHANOUK REPRESENTATIVE CHAN YOURAN DECLARED THAT THIS BRINGS TO 20 THE NUMBER OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS NOW RECOGNIZING GRUNK. HIS COUNT APPEARS TO BE CORRECT.

ECONOMIC

13. DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT DECISION TO FREEZE RICE CONSUMPTION PRICES ( SEE POLITICAL ABOVE), THE CABINET ON MARCH 9 APPROVED A MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE RECOMMENDATION TO ESTABLISH A FLOOR PRICE FOR PADDY FOR THE NEXT PLANTING SEASON OF 1,215 RIELS PER PICUL (68 KG). THIS NEW FLOOR PRICE, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO MAXIMIZE PLANTING AND PRODUCTION, HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED.

14. THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET HAS BEEN CLOSED DURING THIS WEEK OSTENSIBLY DUE TO THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE SITUATION, IN FACT TO CONSERVE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND ASSETS.

15. ON MARCH 10, OPENING RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH AND KOMPONG SOM WERE ESTIMATED AT 43,000 METRIC TONS OR A 95 DAYS' SUPPLY. THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT AGAIN ANNOUNCED THE LEGAL SELLING PRICE FOR ALL RICE, PRICES CONTINUE TO RUN MUCH HIGHER IN THE MARKET. BATTAMBANG RICE IS STILL SELLING FOR 40 RIELS PER KILO, WITH AMERICAN RICE RISING TO 26 RIELS. DURING THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF MARCH, DISTRIBUTION OF RICE REMAINED HIGHT AND WAS RUNNING 55 PERCENT ABOVE AVERAGE. BATTAMBANG RICE CONTINUES TO MOVE TO PHNOM PENH. ROUTE 4 IS ALSO OPEN, BUT THE AMOUNT OF RICE DELIVERED TO PHNOM PENH IS DECREASING AS PL 480 STOCKS IN KOMPONG SOM NEAR DEPLETION. THE REGULAR MEKONG CONVLY ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH ON MARCH 6 WITH 2,500 METRIC TONS OF RICE.

MILITARY

16. ENEMY PRESSURE ON RTE 2 BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF TAKEO INCREASED DURING THE WEEK, AND THE IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT CHAMBAK AND PREY SANDEK FELL TO THE ENEMY ON MARCH 12. ALTHOUGH FANK FORCES STILL CONTROL APPROXIMATELY 20 KMS OF THE ROAD FROM TAKEO NORTH TO THNAL  
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TOTUNG, THE CITY'S DEFENSIVE PERIMETER HAS BEEN REDUCED TO ONLY FOUR KM ON THE SOUTH AND EAST, AND THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL IS SERIOUSLY THREATENED. FANK IS REACTING BY SENDING ITS BEST UNIT, THE SEVENTH DIVISION, INTO ACTION.

17. ON MARCH 7, ENEMY FORCES AMBUSHED FANK PATROLS ON BOTH RTES 4 AND 5, CAUSING FANK TO CLOSE BOTH ROADS TO TRAFFIC. SUBSEQUENT SWEEPS OF BOTH ROUTES REVEALED NO ENEMY PRESENCE ON OR NEAR THE ROADS. RTE 5 WAS REOPENED TO TRAFFIC THE SAME DAY, AND RTE 4 ON MARCH 12.

18. ENEMY HARASSMENT OF MEKONG SHIPPING CONTINUED DURING THE WEEK BUT AT A REDUCED LEVEL. THE RETURN CONVOY FROM PHNOM PENH TO RVN RECEIVED SEVERAL MINOR ATTACKS BY FIRE MARCH 9; NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE RESULTED.

19. ON MARCH 6, FANK ELEMENTS SUCCEEDED IN SECURING THE KG THOM AIRFIELD, AND IT WAS REOPENED TO TRAFFIC FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE EARLY DECEMBER 1972. SINCE THAT TIME, ACTIVITY IN THE AREA HAS BEEN LIMITED TO SPORADIC ABF'S AND SMALL SCALE GROUND PROBES.  
SWANK

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** worrelsw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, PINT, CB  
**To:** BANGKOK  
CANBERRA  
COPENHAGEN  
EA  
HONG KONG  
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